requested by MCL to close down all licensed coal depots (Licenses issued by the State Government authorities) near mines/pit heads. The existence of such coal depots near mines/pit heads is the main cause of pilferage of coal. No license is now being issued to coal depots within a radius of 45 kilometers of the coal mines.

(ii) Coordination is being done by MCL with the civil authorities including police. A strategy is being formulated to prevent theft/ pilferage of coal. Extensive mobile patrolling by the security personnel of MCL as well as by the police is being carried out regularly.

**Fire accident in Moira Colliery of ECL**

1088. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item regarding Fire accident in Moira Colliery, under ECL, West Bengal appearing in 'Ganashakti' dated the 12th July, 2000;

(b) If so, the action taken by Government to restore the situation; and

(c) the expected loss due to that accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fire area has been sealed off on 17.7.2000 and production has been restored from 18.7.2000.

(c) Expected loss due to the accident is Rs. 32.50 lakhs.

**Coal Production Capacity of Mines**

1089. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the coal production capacity of various coal mines and the actual production therein during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase existing production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Details of production capacity and actual production in the subsidiaries of CIL during the last three years are given below:

(Figures in Million tonnes)

| Company | 1997-98 | | 1998-99 | | 1999-2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Capacity | Actual Production | Capacity | Actual Production | Capacity | Actual Production |
| ECL | 38.21 | 27.42 | 36.49 | 27.16 | 35.39 | 25.12 |
| BCCL | 37.87 | 30.92 | 45.52 | 27.17 | 39.95 | 28.01 |
| CCL | 42.10 | 33.08 | 41.45 | 32.17 | 40.25 | 32.40 |
| NCL | 36.39 | 37.12 | 36.98 | 36.52 | 35.49 | 38.43 |
| WCL | 30.84 | 32.52 | 32.93 | 31.75 | 33.02 | 33.86 |
| SECL | 57.48 | 56.63 | 61.89 | 57.56 | 62.19 | 58.75 |
| MCL | 39.63 | 42.17 | 40.95 | 43.51 | 49.08 | 43.55 |
| NEC | 0.89 | 0.69 | 0.93 | 0.64 | 0.84 | 0.57 |
| CIL Total | 283.41 | 260.55 | 297.14 | 256.48 | 296.21 | 260.69 |

(b) Increase in capacity utilisation in existing mines, timely completion of on-going projects and speedy implementation of new projects are the main thrust areas for increasing coal production. Necessary funds are also tied up to increase coal productions.

**Problem of subsidence in Asansol-Raniganj mines**

1090. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe problem of subsidence in the Asansol-Raniganj mine areas under ECL posing a grave threat to the life and livelihood of a number of villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to Government about this problem and urged for immediate intervention and support for addressing the problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The